

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-62. (Canceled)

63. (New) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a first strand and a second strand,  
wherein said first strand comprises a first stretch that is complementary to a target nucleic acid,

wherein said second strand comprises a second stretch that is the same length as said first stretch and that is complementary to said first stretch,

wherein said first strand and said second strand form a double-stranded structure consisting of said first stretch and said second stretch,

wherein said first stretch and said second stretch each consist of contiguous alternating single 2'-O-methyl modified and single unmodified ribonucleotides,

wherein said 2'-O-methyl modified and unmodified ribonucleotides in each stretch are linked by phosphodiester bonds,

wherein each modified ribonucleotide in said first stretch is base paired with a said unmodified ribonucleotide in said second stretch,

wherein each modified ribonucleotide in said second stretch is base paired with a said unmodified ribonucleotide in said first stretch, and

wherein each stretch consists of 15-23 ribonucleotides.

64. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 63, wherein said first strand and said second strand are each 15-23 nucleotides long.

65. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 63, wherein said first strand and said second strand are each 17-23 nucleotides long.

66. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 63, wherein said first strand and said second strand are each 19 nucleotides long.

67. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 63, wherein said first strand and said second strand are each 21 nucleotides long.

68. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 63, wherein said first strand and said second strand are each 23 nucleotides long.

69. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 63, wherein said nucleic acid is blunt ended at both ends.